

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-5, 8-9, 20-22, and 24, and cancel Claim 25, without prejudice, as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of providing a query, the method comprising the steps of:

selecting at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of a search object on a display;

dropping the at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of the search object on a display onto at least one non-textual language independent visual representation corresponding to a domain object on a display; and
in response to the dropping step, providing a query.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

in response to the provided query, searching at least one collection of information;
and

in response to the search of the at least one collection of information, providing to a user at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of a result set object.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the non-textual language independent visual representation of the result set object indicates whether at least one match was found as a result of the search.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-textual language independent visual representation of the search object comprises a non-textual language independent visual representation of an item sought.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the non-textual language independent visual representation of the domain object comprises a non-textual language independent visual representation of an action to indicate a context for a search.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of formulating a text search query.

7. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of sending the text search query to at least one search engine.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of sending the text search query to at least one pre-collected database search system repository.

9. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a graphical user interface;

a graphical user interface manager communicatively coupled to the graphical user interface;

AI
a query formulator, communicatively coupled to the graphical user interface manager, and responsive to a selected at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of a search object on a display being dropped onto at least one selected non-textual language independent visual representation of a domain object on a display to provide a query;

a query initiator, communicatively coupled to the query formulator to initiate a query request in response to the provided query;

a lookup system, communicatively coupled to the query initiator, for providing a search result in response to receiving the query request; and

a result set manager, communicatively coupled to the graphical user interface manager, to the query initiator, and to the lookup system, for providing to a user a non-textual language independent visual representation of a result set object to indicate the search result.

10. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the graphical user interface manager is structured to receive at least one user initiated command.

11. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the lookup system provides access to at least one object repository.
12. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the search result provided from the lookup system comprises an object identifier for retrieving an object.
13. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the graphical user interface manager comprises an event stacker structured to maintain a query stack.
14. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the event stacker is further structured to associate items in the query stack with pending query requests.
15. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the query formulator is structured to provide a text search query.
16. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the query Initiator is structured to initiate a query request comprising an object search request.
17. (Original) The system of claim 9, wherein the result set manager is structured to correlate an at least one search result to an at least one query request.
18. (Original) The system of claim 9, further comprising an object mapper communicatively coupled to the graphical user interface manager, the query formulator, and the result set manager.

19. (Original) The system of claim 18, wherein the object mapper is further structured to map a selected object to a corresponding object identifier and a string representation.

20. (Currently Amended) A computer readable medium including computer instructions for driving a graphical user interface, the computer instructions comprising instructions for:

selecting at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of a search object;
dropping the at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of the search object on a display onto at least one non-textual language independent visual representation corresponding to a domain object on a display; and
in response to the dropping step, providing a query.

21. (Currently Amended) The computer readable medium of claim 20, wherein the computer instructions further comprise the instructions for:

AI
in response to the provided query, searching at least one collection of information;
and
in response to the search of the at least one collection of information, providing to a user at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of a result set object.

22. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:
a graphical user interface comprising a display;
a visual search query application;
an interface communicatively coupled to the visual search query application; and
a search base interface communicatively coupled with the visual search query application and the application programming interface for:
selecting at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of a search object on the display; ~~in the graphical user interface~~;
dropping the at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of the search object onto at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of a domain object on the display; and
in response to dropping the at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of the search object onto at least one non-textual language independent visual representation of a domain object, providing a query request to the search base interface.
23. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the interface communicatively coupled to the visual search query application further comprises an application programming interface.
24. (Currently Amended) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the search base interface sends the query request to a database search system repository.
25. (Canceled)
26. (Original) The apparatus of claim 22, wherein the search base interface sends the query request to at least one search engine.
27. (Original) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the at least one search engine is structured to search the world wide web.